

# Jewish Welfare Board Cares for 100,000 Fighting Men

## National Body Co-operating With the War Department Represents Important Jewish Societies

THE Jewish Welfare Board is a win-the-war organization that is helping the United States government to build up the morale of more than 100,000 Jewish men in the army and navy. It is a national body co-operating with and under the supervision of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

The board was created by the joint action of representatives from some ten or twelve national Jewish organizations to meet the emergencies precipitated by the war. The organizations represented in its councils are: Agudath Ha-Rabbonim, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Council of Y. M. H. and kindred associations, Independent Order Brith Abraham, Jewish Publication Society of America, Council of Jewish Women, Independent Order B'nai Brith, Jewish Chautauqua Society, Independent Order Brith Shalom, United Synagogue of America, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, New York Board of Jewish Ministers, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

Its officers are: Colonel Harry Cutler, chairman; Dr. Cyrus Adler, vice-chairman; Chester J. Teller, secretary; Walter E. Sachs, treasurer.

Executive committee: Henry J. Bernheim, Abram I. Elkus, I. Edwin Goldwater, Rabbi Maurice H. Harris, Charles Hartman, Louis E. Kirstein, Justice Irving Lehman, Judge Julian W. Mack, Rabbi M. S. Margolis, Louis Marshall, Rabbi D. de Sola Pool, Rabbi William Rosenau, Joseph Rosenzweig, Bernard Semel, Mortimer L. Schiff and Israel Unterberg.

### How the Work Is Carried On

The Jewish Welfare Board does its work:

1. In camp—
    - (a) By sending trained workers to camps, cantonments, forts and naval training stations to provide for the recreational and spiritual needs of all men in uniform.
    - (b) By erecting for their welfare buildings in camps with auditorium, rest and writing rooms, libraries with English, Yiddish and Hebrew literature, victrolas, pianos, etc.
    - (c) By conducting religious services on Friday evenings, on all holidays, and on special occasions with the aid of the visiting and resident rabbis.
    - (d) By having its representatives distribute among the boys various supplies, such as prayer books, Bibles and other necessary supplies.
    - (e) By having its representatives perform a variety of personal services for the men, visiting them in the hospitals and barracks.
    - (f) By arranging classes in English, history, Hebrew, current events, etc.
    - (g) By arranging concerts, theatrical and minstrel shows, patriotic celebrations, lectures, debates, etc., in cooperation with the other welfare agencies.
  2. In town—
    - (a) By having branch organizations in over 150 cities, which have established community centres for soldiers and sailors containing rest, reading and social rooms, sleeping quarters, baths, etc.
    - (b) Arrange send-offs to draftees in their towns.
    - (c) Collect and distribute gifts among the boys.
    - (d) Provide entertainments for visiting soldiers and sailors.
    - (e) Obtain home hospitality for uniformed men on leave.
    - (f) Perform a variety of personal services, such as looking after the welfare of parents and other relatives, corresponding with the men in the service, etc.
- More than two hundred workers are in camps, and they include rabbis, teachers,

social workers and professional and business men.

The Jewish Welfare Board maintains a training school at its headquarters, which provides a practical preliminary course in the history of the movement, policies and problems of camp and town work.

The Jewish Welfare Board has a staff of field supervisors who superintend the work of these representatives in the camps and in the communities in all sections of the country.

### No Conflict With Other Groups

The work of the Jewish Welfare Board does not conflict or duplicate that of the Y. M. C. A., K. of C., War Camp Community Service or any other welfare agency. The Jewish Welfare Board has a place of its own in camp life. It steps in where the other agencies would be less effective, and it works with the other agencies, making the Jewish contribution to the larger welfare programme of the country.

Dr. John R. Mott, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. and director general of the United War Work Campaign, says: "The most distinctive vital function of the Jewish Welfare Board is the safeguarding and developing of the religious life and conviction of your men. This cannot be done by any other organization or worker. It is a matter of utmost importance and fully justifies you in developing and carrying out a programme to make it possible."

The Jewish Welfare Board itself vigorously opposes any attempt at segregation. Its aim is, rather, to help the Jewish boys to adjust themselves to understand and sympathize with their Gentile brothers-in-arms and to be, in turn, understood by them.

The Jewish Welfare Board's work is officially recognized upon the same basis as the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. as the only Jewish agency authorized to do welfare work in the camps.

The work of the Jewish Welfare Board has been extended overseas. Headquarters have been established in Paris and are located at 41 Boulevard Haussmann. A special commission has returned from France with recommendations as to how the organization can render the most effective service, and their suggestions have been received by the executive committee. An overseas force of over one hundred men has been recruited.

Eight Jewish chaplains have been named to date, seven in the army and one in the navy. Six have already been sent overseas and others will follow shortly. Twenty-five additional chaplains are to be appointed, recommended by the Jewish Welfare Board to the War Department. The Jewish Welfare Board has coordinated all Jewish welfare work in the camps. Its administrative council represents all sections of the country and all elements and groups of Jewish life in America.

Every mail brings letters to the Jewish Welfare Board from the boys in the service, who have high praise for its work. "I can't tell you what it meant to me to find the kindly smile and welcoming hand of your man," said a soldier before he sailed overseas.

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### No Lack of Appreciation

A young dentist, who was generally disinterested in Jewish institutions, experienced a complete reversal of opinion, when he came in contact with the Jewish Welfare Board. He wrote of the strangeness and difficulties of his new camp life and of the facility with which the Jewish Welfare Board overcame them all. He said, "I am sorry that I can't express to you all that the Jewish soldier feels toward the Jewish Welfare Board."

"There is a debt of gratitude that we owe

you, who are so anxious to make our boys feel at home, that we can never repay." This is from a sister of a soldier.

From a parent: "It certainly is a comfort to know that although it is an impossibility for me to be with my son, there are others who are keeping a watchful eye over him and giving him the fellowship of a wonderful organization."

A Catholic, before he sailed overseas, wrote: "I have only a few more hours before leaving, and do not want to depart from my adopted country without expressing my thanks to the Jewish Welfare Board for all the courtesies and favors which were accorded me at Camp Merritt, New Jersey, by your representatives. I am a Catholic, but I cannot help expressing by heartiest thanks to all your secretaries, and I sincerely hope that I can reciprocate some day what they have done for me."

Major General J. F. Bell, U. S. A., formerly stationed at Camp Upton, said: "The Jewish Welfare Board has exceeded all expectations. In spite of tremendous obstacles at the outset, it has become one of the most efficient organizations in camp."

Raymond B. Fosdick, director of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, in a letter to Colonel Cutler, said: "I want to express to you my hearty appreciation of your fine cooperative spirit in all the work we have jointly undertaken, as well as my realization of the many obstacles you have had to overcome and the difficulties that have faced you."

## J. W. B. Canteen, Real Home for Soldiers and Sailors

By Hazel V. Carter

"JUST a homey place for boys—where they can have homemade 'tats' to their heart's content."

This is the purpose of the Seward Park Canteen of the Jewish Welfare Board, which will open November 10, celebrating the opening of the United War Work Campaign for \$170,500,000, the next day, according to Mrs. Israel Unterberg, president of the Young Women's Hebrew Association and chairman of the new canteen.

"Ours will be the first canteen on the lower East Side," Mrs. Unterberg said, "and we want especially to serve the needs of those boys who have gone out in thousands from this section and the boys from Brooklyn navy yard. We want to serve their families, too, if necessary, and to see that they are well taken care of, as well as showing the boys a genuine good time."

### Will Cooperate With Other Bodies

The canteen will work in cooperation with various other organizations in the neighborhood and throughout the city to provide a social life which will be much broader than a single clubhouse could afford. Among these organizations are: The Community Council, the Nurse's Settlement, Young Women's Hebrew Association, Jewish Welfare Board and the Educational Alliance. The canteen will be strictly non-sectarian and open to men in any branch of the army or navy.

The canteen will be open from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m. with three meals as well as refreshments throughout the day. Sleeping quarters for men in uniform will be arranged for through the Educational Alliance.

An entertainment committee will arrange for weekly dances, concerts and other entertainments through cooperating organizations. The Community Council will be at the service of boys who come in during the early morning, evening and Saturday. The Nurses' Settlement will give the use of their playhouse for entertainments.

The association's swimming pool, gymnasium, showers, library and other facilities are open for the free use of the soldiers and sailors.

The Jewish Welfare Board's rabbi at a base hospital in New York City paused beside a wheel chair.

"Are you going back again?" he asked the convalescent youth.

"Bet your life!" came the quick rejoinder, "just as soon as my leg heals. And no just."

"On the battlefield every distinction, every difference of social standing is discarded. Not only that—three of my brothers are going over with me—four of us, fighting the Hun. The boys are in camp now, getting ready to go across. Any more? Well, my other brother and my two little sisters are too small to do anything more than sell Thrift Stamps and Liberty bonds, but Brooklyn's going to be proud of us all some day. You see, we're making this war a kind of family affair."

Dedication services will be held at the canteen at 10 a. m. to-day. Colonel Harry Cutler, president of the Jewish Welfare Board, will preside.

### One More House on War Basis

The Y. M. H. A., Ninety-second Street and Lexington Avenue, has been put on a war basis, and, in co-operation with the New

York City Branch of the Jewish Welfare Board, has placed its entire facilities at the disposal of the men in uniform. Sleeping accommodations have been provided for 65 men in the new Heinsheimer wing, and on emergency the gymnasium is turned into an overflow dormitory. The men receive bed, towels, soaps and breakfast for 25 cents.

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### Noted Men Are Working for Cause

Jacob H. Schiff and Nathan Straus, known as "the two grand old men of American Jewry" and noted for their many benefac-

tions, are working wholeheartedly for the success of the United War Work Campaign, which will provide the wherewithal to carry on for the seven war work organizations. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, that are backing up the boys in the trenches. Both Mr. Schiff and Mr. Straus have been intensely interested in the work of the Jewish Welfare Board, which has provided home comforts and spiritual guidance for the young men with our fighting forces.

"Give until it feels good," is Mr. Straus's slogan for the United War Work Campaign.

Bravery, the same hardships and the same danger. And war workers representing every faith have united behind the lines to give the 'boys' home comforts and good cheer. We owe a great debt to these devoted war workers, who look after the welfare and happiness of our fighting men. No person is rich enough to give too much

to this great work; no one too poor to give something."

Mr. Schiff speaks of the campaign as follows:

"It speaks volumes for President Wilson's catholicity and deep vision in clearly seeing, as he does, that as a result of this world war all prejudice and division between men will diminish and gradually become eradicated. It is no doubt in this spirit the President has suggested that the raising of the necessary funds for war camp activities in army and navy be undertaken as a united effort by Protestants, Catholics and Jews. This will surely serve as a practical demonstration that the American people, without any division whatsoever, stand shoulder to shoulder in the endeavor to uphold the morale of their young manhood, which has so courageously come forward to battle for the ideals for which America stands and the principles for which it has gone into the war."

## Will Care for Jewish Dependents in New York

By Mortimer L. Schiff

OUR fighting men, from the rawest recruit to the veteran who has been over the top a score of times, have hundreds of persistent needs that the army organization cannot satisfy. These needs range from a doughnut or a certain brand of cigarette to participation in a religious ceremony of their own faith. The business man goes home after his work is done, but the soldier cannot go home. He depends on our seven war work organizations to bring a home to him, in camp or in the trenches, to supply the missing element in his life. It is the big human task of these agencies to fill the personal lives of the soldiers with wholesome comradeship.

The week beginning November 11 is to be devoted to the United War Work Campaign, a campaign to raise not less than \$170,500,000 to enable the seven agencies recognized by the War and Navy departments to carry on the work they are doing to furnish recreational, educational and religious facilities to our soldiers and sailors both here and overseas. Thousands of men and women are engaged in this task, buildings ranging from magnificent hotels and casinos to humble huts and tents are being used for this purpose, but the spirit of all is the same, namely, to minister to the needs of those who are fighting for us on land and sea. The work itself knows no race or creed; it is not even limited to our own troops, but spreads among those of our brave Allies and in the same way the appeal for funds is made to all Americans, irrespective of their religious beliefs or the stock from which they have sprung.

It is a united campaign, united not only in purpose, but—what is even more important—in the spirit which underlies it. Protestant, Catholic and Jew have come together for a single object, the one and only test of which is the maximum service to be rendered to the fighting forces. This unity of thought and purpose will have a far-reaching effect not only upon the work itself, but upon our country after the campaign and the war itself are over. Working together as they are doing, with the common respect which this engenders, will result in a better understanding of one another, and much prejudice and sectionalism is bound to disappear. It is toward a united country that we are striving, united in thought and in action, and I venture to believe that a campaign such as the one upon which we are entering will make no mean contribution toward this end.

It is impossible within the confines of this brief statement even to touch upon the many activities in which these seven agencies are engaged, but there is one feature of our situation which must not be overlooked, and to which special attention should be called, as it has so great a bearing on the need for the work these organizations are doing. Our allies are fighting to a great extent at or near home. They

are surrounded by or are near their own people. In their rest periods as a rule they can go home, with all that that means. Our soldiers and sailors on the other hand are from 3,000 to 6,000 miles away from their own people, they are in a strange land, in a new environment, where even the language is foreign.

The agencies which have joined in the United War Work campaign mean home to our men; they take the place as best they can of the dear ones who have been left behind; they are bringing to them that word of cheer and encouragement, and even of love and affection, which only those who speak one's own language and think in one's own terms are able to do. Every dollar given to make this work possible is as much a contribution toward winning the war as the buying of Liberty bonds or the support of the Red Cross.

Evidence is not wanting of what the activities of the seven agencies mean to our men and we would be indeed derelict in our duty if we did not accord them the fullest measure of our support.

## How Welfare Body Is Organized

THE Jewish Welfare Board is organizing New York City block by block to care for the dependents of its men in uniform. When the drafted man marches away the folks that are left behind require some looking after. The Home Service Division of the Red Cross, the War Camp Community Service, the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. and other welfare agencies have cared for those cases that have been brought to their notice. The New York City branch of the Jewish Welfare Board, of which former Ambassador Abram I. Elkus is chairman, has a plan that will make sure that no one is left out.

Using the local draft board as the unit of organization, the Jewish Welfare Board plans to form committees on each block. The committees will be chiefly composed of men in deferred classification, upon whom will fall the burden of caring for the families of those who are inducted into the service.

The block committee will ascertain from the draft board the names and addresses of all men subject to call. As far as possible an effort will be made to determine the home conditions and the need for future assistance.

The Jewish Welfare Board, through its personal service and information service bureaus at national headquarters, 149 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and through local branches, has already taken care of a large number of dependent families. This number includes those left destitute because their government allotments failed to arrive; others impoverished by illness or other unexpected contingencies, and shop-owning families whose source of income failed because the head of the business was called away.



## Organizations Working in Complete Accord

THAT the Knights of Columbus and Salvation Army are working in complete harmony among the

American troops in France is asserted by Joseph Scott, Overseas Commissioner for the Knights of Columbus, in a recent interview in Lafayette, Ind. In an interesting statement Mr. Scott paid a warm tribute to the noble work done by the Salvationists in France.

"Let me say a word for the Salvation Army lassies," said Mr. Scott. "They are out there, right up as close to the front as the commanding officers will permit them to go. They have given the Knights of Columbus the opportunity to demonstrate clearly that the Knights' slogan, 'Everybody Welcome,' means just that—for the lassies are carrying their doughnuts and their hot coffee in automobile trucks which the Knights have given them. Now the Knights are sending up doughnuts of their own, also, but the Salvation Army lassies still are using the Knights' trucks. We are over there to help, but so are the Salvation

Army girls. We are pulling together and getting a good, big job done well."

Mr. Scott expressed the hope that the American public—the fathers and mothers of the 2,000,000 American soldiers now in France—will lend their hearty aid in making the United War Work Campaign, soon to open, a great success. Money, he said, was needed now more than ever, and the soldiers who are dying or shedding their blood along the Western front, looked longingly to this country for the assistance they need and which only the humanitarian organizations now in the field are able to afford them.

Paying a tribute of admiration and respect to the Salvation Army workers in France and urging that the families and friends of American soldiers abroad do their utmost to aid the Salvation Army with liberal donations of money, I. A. F. Redrup, of the medical detachment, 145th Infantry, has written an interesting letter to his father, H. C. Redrup, of Van Wert, Ohio, under a recent date.

## French Association Aids Cause

M LLE. ELIZABETH FUCHS is one of the four French representatives who have come to help in the United War Work drive for \$170,500,000. Mile. Fuchs is general secretary and founder of the Union Chretienne des Jeunes Filles, the French Y. W. C. A. in Paris.

It had always been her ambition to found some work for girls which would be analogous to the work of the American Y. W. C. A. Seven years ago, with the help of friends, she opened a home for employed girls at 22 Rue de Naples, in a vacant old convent school. This house accommodates a hundred girls providing them with lodging, board and all the programme common to American houses of the kind—recreations, gymnasium, educational classes and all the rest. Girls from fifteen to thirty years of age are admitted. They are of all classes—seamstresses, embroiderers, dressmakers, telegraph operators, bookkeepers and secretaries.

Later another home of the kind was opened at 40 Rue Boulevard, which accommodates from thirty to forty girls. Like the mother house it is run on the lines of a private home so far as is possible.

With the help of the American Y. W. C. A., the U. C. J. F., under whose direction the other homes are run, opened a country house for girls at Boisay. This house called L'Oiseau Bleu (the Blue Bird), can entertain sixty girls at one time. The girls come for week-ends, or for a period from a week to a month for vacation or recuperation from illness.

During the past years of war the first house started in Paris, on the Rue de Naples, has opened its doors to refugees of all ages from three months to eighty years, and it has turned one of its rooms over for sewing for soldiers and refugees. Women who are destitute are employed here and, in addition to a small fee, have luncheon and dinner. A hundred and fifty women are being helped in this way, the main object being to provide them with food. The women are allowed to bring their children with them. Mile. Fuchs organized the first Girl Scouts in Paris, and these girls, who are at home, come to the home and help to serve the women in the workshop.

Mile. Fuchs is the daughter of Edmond Fuchs, a famous professor in the Mining School of Paris, explorer and writer.

"If you want a friend indeed," writes Mr. Redrup, "you will find him in the Salvation Army. I wish you would do something for me and also for the rest of the boys by giving the Salvation Army the biggest possible boost you can. The Salvation Army is doing real good at the front. If you are broke they give you all you need and no questions asked. They always greet you with a smile and a hearty handshake. Go down to the Salvation Army barracks and give them our heartiest appreciation for their splendid work among the American troops. And the next time when subscriptions are called for to aid the work of the Salvation Army abroad don't forget them."

Mr. Redrup forwarded his son's letter to the Salvation Army headquarters in his place of residence, and a copy was sent to the headquarters of the United War Work Campaign, No. 60 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York.

Declaring that the Salvation Army is doing a great work in this war and that the American troops "take their hats off to the Salvationists all along the line," Ralph C. Rogers, a member of the medical corps now serving on a hospital train in France, has written an interesting letter to his parents, who live in Jonesport, Me. Mr. Rogers wrote under date of August 29, and incidentally referred to the work of "the Yanks who were making things lively wherever they happened to face the Boches."

"I'm glad you're doing something for the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A.," writes Mr. Rogers, "but I want to tell you that the Salvation Army is doing a great and wonderful work in France. It is playing a big part in the war and should get credit for it all over the United States. The boys back from the trenches take off their hats to the Salvationists all along the line. I hope all the organizations working in behalf of our troops, get all they ask for, as they are entitled to it and more, too."

Mr. Rogers's letter has been submitted to the United War Work Campaign, No. 60 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City, and information contained therein is being employed in the campaign. Mr. Rogers is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Rogers, of Jonesport, Me., and he enlisted in November, 1917. Of thirteen letters sent to him he has received seven thus far, and he says that if the people in this country knew how happy the troops are when they receive a letter from home, parents, relatives and friends of American soldiers would write every day.